

Minutes – Joint Meeting

Security Committee- Hollywood Entertainment District, Sunset and Vine BID February 26, 2009

Attendance: HED Committee Members Present: John Tronson, Chairperson, Dan Chismire, Carol Massie, Stephanie Houfek. Not Present: Shaun Ingram, Hilary Royce, Thaddeus Smith. SVBID Committee Members Present: Nick Spampanato, Chairperson; Richard Falzone, Fred Rosenthal, Travis Serpa, Fabio Conti. Not Present: Brian Folb. Liaisons: Captain Beatrice Girmala, Sgt. Darrel Davis, Steve Seyler, Bill Farrar and Joe Salazar, Andrews International; Larry Webster and Will Rivera, LA City Attorney's Office; Deputy Jerry Hankerson, LA County Sheriff; Helen Leueng, CD-13. Staff: Kerry Morrison, Joe Mariani, Hollywood Property Owners Alliance.

I. Call to Order: The meeting was called to order by Chairpersons John Tronson and Nick Spampanato at 10:10 A.M.

II. Public Comment: None.

III. Reports

A. Report from LAPD: Captain Girmala and Helen Leung reported on a meeting held on February 6, 2009 between the Captain and Council President Eric Garcetti. The purpose of the meeting, among other issues, was to explore methods by which the characters and vending could be regulated to a greater extent in front of Hollywood and Highland. Helen pointed out that any new vending policies adopted by the city would have to apply to the entire city, not just that block, making a policy more challenging to develop and enforce. More details will follow at a subsequent meeting

Captain Girmala reported that the Hollywood Boulevard footbeat is no longer deployed; a casualty of shift in personnel due to the recent opening of the Olympic station in January. She is working with the command staff at LAPD to make a case for additional deployment of officers to Hollywood given the intensity of the activities occurring in Hollywood. She indicated that the area around LA Live has, in fact, received a special deployment of 14 additional officers owing to the density of the attractions (Staples, theatres, restaurants, etc) and the population attracted to the area. She feels a similar case can be made for the entertainment zone in Hollywood and asked the various business representatives in the room to provide her with information regarding attendance figures, upcoming events and other statistics which will help her make this case.

B. Report from Andrews International: Steve Seyler distributed and summarized his monthly report for January, 2009. In particular, he described experience to-date in patrolling later at night (till midnite) in the Hollywood BID. He indicated that it is harder to maneuver, given the traffic congestions in the area. He reported on the arrival of new transport vehicles, called "T-3's" which allow for mobility on the sidewalks and a greater line of site for the officers in patrolling the area.

C. Report from City Attorney's Office: Will Rivera briefed the committee, as a refresher, particularly for new members, about the Jones v. city of Los Angeles settlement agreement. In essence, the 2006 agreement negotiated by the ACLU with the city of LA prohibits enforcement of a municipal code section that disallows sleeping on the sidewalk. Until the city constructs an additional 1,250 units of permanent supportive housing (at least 50 percent of which must be located in Skid Row) the LAPD cannot enforce this municipal code section between the hours of 9 p.m. and 6 a.m. This issue has come up recently at various community meetings because of encampments located on Gower and near Hollywood Presbyterian Church (not in the BID) but its important the community understand what the legal constraints are for law enforcement.

Rivera also reported on a successful meeting between LAPD and the nightclub security teams. It was stressed that all security personnel must have current guard cards.

D. Report from LA County Sheriff: Deputy Jerry Hankerson made a brief appearance, having just been involved in making a key arrest on a METRO fare card counterfeit ring. He said that both agencies continue to work on fare evasion and curfew enforcement.

IV. Old Business

A. Video Surveillance Cameras. Morrison reported that the camera has been successful installed at the intersection of Cahuenga and Selma. It will be there in time for the upcoming anti war march which will include that intersection on its route on March 21. Questions were raised about the extent to which the cameras are used by LAPD, and how much manpower is devoted to watching the cameras, especially with deployment down. The committee asked Morrison to secure a report from LAPD on this, and possibly to schedule a tour of the camera room at a future meeting.

The question was also raised as to whether BID security could gain access to the images on the camera (i.e., a live feed directed into the BID Security office). Morrison explained that when the system was designed, the intent was to create a "firewall" between LAPD and BID Security – so as to minimize liability to the property owners association, and any of the property owners that hosted camera equipment. However, it would be worth it to revisit this premise, and she offered to arrange a meeting with the relevant players – LAPD, City Attorney, BID Counsel and Andrews – to brainstorm the implications and benefits of such an arrangement.

B. Homeless Issues: Morrison reported that the BID was involved in helping to coordinate the 2009 Homeless Count, conducted by the Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority, on January 29, 2009. Twenty eight census tracts were counted in Hollywood, thanks to 150 volunteers. The formal results will be available in the summer. She also reported that PATH's Homeless Connect Day is scheduled for June 25 this year and it will be held, again, at The Music Box.

VI. New Business

A. Rand Report: Morrison reported that the Rand Institute had been working for several years on a report that was just released the previous week: *Effect of Business Improvement Districts on Violent Crime in Los Angeles*. She will bring a summary to the next Committee meeting.

B. Hollywood Police Support Association: Morrison circulated a letter from the HPSA who is proposing to raise funds from the community to help fund new landscaping improvements for the Hollywood station's upcoming inspection in May. Funds are also needed for new file cabinets. The Committee recommended that both the Sunset and Hollywood Boards receive a copy of this letter and that individual board members and their companies be encouraged to contribute toward this effort.

VI. Adjournment: The meeting was adjourned at 11:30 a.m.